GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2252
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
POLLUTION BY AGROCHEMICALS
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that agro-chemicals are causing high pollution and many other grave problems; (

(b) if so, the details thereof; (

(c) whether the Government have taken note of the report of Environment Protection Agency (EPA) of US wherein agriculture has been shown as the biggest polluter of America`s rivers and streams; (

(d) if so, whether such study has been proposed or undertaken in India also; and (

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the plans chalked out to combat this emerging grave situation?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) Agro-chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides, when applied in an unscientific manner, tend to cause grave problems to environment and human health.

(c) As per the Report of the United States - Environment Protection Agency `Water Quality conditions in the United States : A profile from the 1998 National Water Quality Inventory Report to Congress,` agriculture is the leading source of pollution in assessed rivers and streams.

(d) & (e) The Central Pollution Control Boardhas taken up a pilot study for assessing pollution problems caused by non-point sources including agro-chemicals, in collaboration with Punjab State Pollution Control Board.